

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECTSTATE WASHDC 4019

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 859

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0553

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, XA

SUBJ: FONMIN MULLER DISCUSSES RHODESIAN AND

NAMIBIAN ISSUES WITH PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADERS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0537 (NOTAL)

1. HOLDING TO HIS PROMISE TO MEET WITH PROGRESSIVE PARTY

LEADER COLIN EGLIN TO DISCUSS EGLIN'S AND PROG MP F. VAN ZYL

SLABBERT'S TRIP TO BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES, FONMIN HILGARD

MULLER HAD PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH EGLIN AND SLABBERT SEPTEMBER

13. A FEW DAYS EARLIER MULLER HAD SAID IN PARLIAMENT:

"OPPOSITION MEMBERS HAVE ENTRANCE INTO COUNTRIES AND

INSTITUTIONS WHERE WE CANNOT ALWAYS GO. I THINK IT IS

NECESSARY THAT WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER, THAT WE STAND

TOGETHER, AND THAT WE THINK IN TERMS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S

INTERESTS." MULLER'S APPROACH TO THIS MATTER HAS BEEN IN

DISTINCT CONTRAST TO POSITION TAKEN BY MINDEFENSE P.W. BOTHA,

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WHO VEHMENTLY ATTACKED PROGS FOR MEETING WITH BLACK

AFRICANS (REFTEL).

2. EGLIN HAS TOLD US THAT MULLER LISTENED WITH INTEREST AS HE AND SLABBERT RELATED THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR VISIT. EGLIN SAYS THAT HE STRESSED TO MULLER THAT SOME BLACK AFRICANS RECOGNIZE THAT SA HAS A UNIQUE PROBLEM AND THAT IT HAS THE RIGHT, AS A SOVEREIGN STATE, TO DETERMINE ITS OWN DOMESTIC POLICIES (EVEN THOUGH THEY OPPOSE THOSE POLICIES). HOWEVER, THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA AND ITS STAND ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

3. MULLER RESPONDED THAT IT WAS UNTRUE THAT SOUTH AFRICA OPPOSED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. EGLIN SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT THE POINT, THAT WHAT CONCERNED THE AFRICANS WAS PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE IN RHODESIA AND SA'S ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR SMITH REGIME WHICH RESULTS FROM SAG'S INSISTENCE ON DISREGARDING ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF RHODESIA. MULLER REPLIED THAT, BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, SAG COULD NOT ABRUPTLY LEAVE RHODESIA IN THE LURCH. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT SAG HAS URGED RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT WITH BLACK RHODESIANS.

4. AS FOR NAMIBIA, MULLER SAID HE REALIZED, AS EGLIN HAD POINTED OUT TO HIM, THAT SOME MOVEMENT AWAY FROM STATUS QUO WAS NECESSARY. HE HINTED THAT SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICIES TOWARD NAMIBIA WERE IN THE WIND, BUT HE ADDED THAT SOME OF HIS VIEWS ON THIS SCORE WERE UNPOPULAR WITH SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN CABINET.

5. MULLER TOLD EGLIN HE HOPED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO UNGA ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA ISSUE. HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS, AS WELL AS CHALLENGE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S CREDENTIALS, AND HE UNSURE WHETHER HE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS UNGA.

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